

**REMARKS**

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

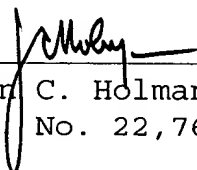
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By

  
John C. Holman  
Reg No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201  
(202) 638-6666

Atty. Docket: P67278US0  
Date: November 5, 2001  
JCH/cmf

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

4. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 1 [either claim 1 or claim 2] wherein said attachment means extends from an opening in said proximal end of said operating member, and is slidable in a direction into or out of said proximal end.
6. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 5], wherein said attachment means is terminated with a hook which in use engages within an aperture provided in a wall of said thin walled section.
8. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 2 [any one of claim 2 through claim 7], wherein said locking means is a wedge member and a slot is provided in said wedge member which in use substantially straddles said attachment means.
9. (amended) A bracket device according to [any one of claim 2 and claim 3 through claim 8 when dependant on] claim 2, wherein said wedge member includes a channel adapted to encompass said flange portion of said main member.
11. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 1 [any one of claim 1 through claim 10], wherein said operating member is a step for attachment to a utility pole having a thin wall section.
12. (amended) A bracket device according to claim 1 [any one of claim 1 through claim 10], wherein said operating member is a suspension bracket for suspending hardware from a utility pole having a thin wall section.

17. (amended) A main member for a bracket device according to claim 1 [any one of claim 1 through claim 12].

18. (amended) A wedge member for a bracket device according to claim 2 [any one of ~~claim~~ claim 2 through claim 12].